

tience with a sham and least of all a snobbish  
 sham; and of  
 all snobbish shams there is none more  
 contemptible than  
 that of the democrat who loudly contends that  
 he is stich  
 and yet wishes in private or public life to  
 grasp privileges  
 which give the lie to his contention. To me  
 there is some-  
 thing fine in the American theory that a  
 private citizen  
 can be chosen by the people to occupy a  
 position as great  
 as that of the mightiest monarch, and to-  
 exercise a power  
 which may for the time being surpass that of  
 Czar, Kaiser,  
 or Pope, and that then, after having filled this  
 position, the  
 man shall leave it as an unpensioned private  
 citizen, who  
 goes back into the ranks of his fellow-citizens  
 with entire  
 self-respect, claiming nothing save what on his  
 own indi-  
 vidual merits he is entitled to receive. But it is  
 not in the  
 least fine, it is vulgar and foolish, for the  
 President or  
 ex-President to make believe, and, of all things  
 in the world,  
 to feel pleased if other people make believe,  
 that he is a  
 kind of second-rate or imitation king. It is as if  
 a Eoman  
 ex-dictator wished to be treated like a king of  
 Pergamum or  
 Antioch! The effort to combine incompatibles  
 merely  
 makes a man look foolish. The positions of  
 President  
 and King are totally different in kind and  
 degree; and it is  
 silly, and worse than silly, to forget this. It is  
 not of much  
 consequence whether other people accept the  
 American  
 theory of the Presidency; but it is of very  
 much conse-  
 quence that the American people, including  
 especially any

American who has held the office, shall accept  
the theory  
and live up to it.

However, in this case, the Italian king  
insisted upon  
treating me upon "the most favored guest"  
principle.

When we dined at the palace, by the way, I  
struck one bit  
of etiquette which I did not strike at any other  
court. I had

endeavored to dispose of my hat when I left my  
coat in the,  
anteroom, but it was returned to me with  
every symptom  
of surprise and horror, and as the other male  
members

among the guests retained theirs, I went on  
with mine.

When the royal party came in, and I was  
brought up to the  
queen to take her in to dinner, I again  
thought it was